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Press Release – August 5, 2016

There was no Cigarette Lighter in Cell Nr. 5!

The Dessau Prosecutors' Office public performance of fire tests to investigate the cause of the fire ignores the central question of the case: Who did actually set the fire in cell No. 5?

Oury Jalloh cannot have set himself on fire!

Since July 1, 2005, the Dessau prosecutor has persisted with the hypothesis that Oury Jalloh set the mattress on fire himself, and is still pretending there is absolutely no reason suspect that anyone else could have possibly been involved in starting the fire.

Yet, in December 2012, they started an investigation with tests for determining the circumstances of his death after a judicially authorized appraiser of the State Office of Criminal Investigation Sachsen-Anhalt confirmed that the remains of the cigarette lighter (which suddenly "appeared" in a fire protection bag three only 3 days after the investigation of the crime scene) on which not a trace of evidence of any connection to the crime scene of the fire could be verified.

But again, the experts did certify many fibers and fiber composites which were melted into the plastic coat of the very lighter in question, which did not match either the clothing worn by Oury Jalloh, nor the mattress on which Oury Jalloh was chained. Additional investigation by the State Office of Criminal Investigation Baden-Württemberg corroborated the findings and furthermore determined two animal hairs of unknown origin on this decisive "piece of evidence".

DNA found on the cigarette lighter was classified to be of non-African origin. The British fire experts Emma Wilson and Iain Peck, who spoke at the press conference on October 27 2015 in Berlin, said that DNA traces of Oury Jalloh's DNA would have been expected instead, and should have been found that part of the cigarette lighter. In their written opinion the renowned experts came to the conclusion that THIS cigarette lighter could not have been in the cell at the time of the fire.

Thus, the above undisputed thesis of the prosecution is unsustainable and absolutely shattered ... or, in other words, sufficiently refuted!

The essential conclusion from these legal experts opinions:

Oury Jalloh did not ignite the deadly fire!

He simply had no means at his disposal to set fire to anything!

The central and most relevant investigation should therefore be:

- 1. Who set fire to Oury Jalloh?**
- 2. WHO has manipulated the cigarette lighter "evidence" and else who ordered him to do it?**

Therefore The Initiative in Memory of Oury Jalloh, seriously questions the purpose for the "arranged" fire tests by the commissioned forensic expert Dr. Zollinger.

Is Procrastination and Hiding Evidence the New “Transparency”!

On July 26, 2016 the Dessau Prosecutor gave short notice to the lawyers for Oury Jalloh’s family informing them of the planned experiments as to reenact the fire of January 7, 2005 again on July 18, 2016, and issued a formal invitation to them to participate in person.

With the exception of “re-enacting the fire in the cell which took place on January 7, 2005”, this invitation contains no plausible information on concrete issues, trial planning and implementation or evaluation techniques, and on top the date was not previously agreed upon with the legal counsel of the family in the case. On August 1, 2016, an answer to the above notice, was sent to by the family’s legal representative to Prosecuting Attorney Olaf Braun, in which the co-plaintiff attorney of the family, Gabriele Heinecke requested a postponement [of the fire test].

Without considering the request by advocate Heinecke and/or informing her accordingly, the answer came indirectly from Mr. Braun on August 2, 2016 in the form of an official press invitation to the Fire Tests on August 8, 2016 at the Saxony Institute for Fire and Extinguishing Research in the city of Schmiedeberg.

For no apparent reason, the prosecutor’s office has also deleted the journalists Susan Bonath and Margot Overath from the prosecutor’s press distribution list. Both of these journalists have worked on this case for a long time.

The Initiative in memory of Oury Jalloh belabors in name of the family of Oury Jalloh against this disrespectful, patronizing and exclusionary behavior by the Dessau prosecutor to the family of Oury Jalloh and their lawyers during investigation of Oury Jalloh’s death.

A serious invitation to the legal representation of the family can only be useful, if unsolicited information and also relevant information regarding concrete issues, as well as documents on the appropriateness of the chosen experimental setup and the planned implementation are shared and necessary arrangements are made mutually.

Proper preparation of the family’s lawyer with the assistance of the competent experts from Ireland, Great Britain and Switzerland, and an informed and critical support for these tests, was undermined fundamentally by the present short- notice invitation and failure to discuss a re-setting the date. The repeated, and sometimes public, announcements by the prosecutor of his willingness to work constructively with the plaintiff, the well-appointed experts and representatives of the Initiative in Remembrance of Oury Jalloh (e.g. October 2015 at the press conference with the international expert team from the UK and Canada) cannot be reconciled with the actual practice of this same prosecutor.

So far, NEITHER the experts NOR the Initiative have even been contacted (let alone involved) by EITHER the prosecution, OR by the newly appointed head of the Fire Test Dr. Kurt Zollinger OR one of his agents!

According to Dessau prosecutors these fire tests are supposed to bring "unbiased transparency" into the current legal proceedings. However one cannot help but get the impression that under the guise of an event open to the press, the main question will be evaded:

WHO KILLED OURY JALLOH???

Initiative in Remembrance of Oury Jalloh /Initiative in Gedenken an Oury Jalloh

Clarification – Justice – Responsibility – Reparations

TOUCH ONE - TOUCH ALL

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